The South 40

VBACS approves cattle producers petition

By JAMES A. SMITH
Extension Agent

At the last meeting, the Virginia Board of Agriculture and Consumer Services approved a petition for a referendum among Virginia cattle producers.

The assessment to be voted on is twenty-five cents per head on the sale of all cattle in the State of Virginia, except dairy cows going back to the farm for milk production and those animals selling for less than twenty dollars per head.

An eligible voter must have held a minimum of ten cattle on January 1, 1984, or July 1, 1983 and who properly completes a certification form and returns it to VDACS by June 30, 1984. Ballots will be mailed August 1 and must be postmarked by August 18, 1984.

The purpose of the assessment is to establish a Virginia Cattle Industry Commission to provide promotional, educational and research programs needed to increase the use and consumption of beef, veal and their products.

The beef industry people who are promoting this effort have established the following as rationale for the program:

The recent move of state and federal government toward budget austerity requires the cattle industry to provide some resources to meet critical needs in cooperation with and aid of various governmental agencies.

The per capita consumption of beef has dropped from 116.1 pounds to 104.4 pounds over the past ten years. In 1972 consumers spent 2.66 percent of their disposable income for beef. By 1982, this figure had declined to 2.00 percent, a 25 percent drop.

Industry leaders say that these trends must be reversed if the cattle industry is to remain in a significant position.

These leaders suggest that the industry is fragmented and needs to work together on a sustained effort.

The promoters say that Virginia is the last major cattle producing state to assess themselves.

The certification process will begin about June 1.

Fruit trees need to be pruned every year, maybe not a great deal, but certainly enough to maintain form.

A thrifty peach or apple will have 12 to 18 inches of new growth. Less than this suggests stress, a weakened tree, lack of fertilization.

Fertilize three times in March, April and May. Apply ¼ pound 16% nitrate nitrogen for each year of age. If ammonium nitrate is used, cut rate in half, as it is twice as strong.

Don't overlook spraying and controlling borers.

The Orthene label for tobacco has been expanded to include control of green peach aphids and cutworms in transplant water. The rate, timing and label cautions for flea beetle control are the same for these new insects.

Most uses of Toxaphene were cancelled last year. Now EPA has agreed to allow the sale and distribution of existing stocks of Toxaphene for certain uses until the supply is exhausted, but not later than December 31, 1986. The classification of Toxaphene has been raised to "restricted use." Registered uses of Toxaphene include: dip for control of scabies on sheep and cattle; armyworn, cutworm and grasshopper control in no-till corn.

We have one call for a place to put the parasitized Cereal Leaf Beetle larvae. We are looking for five more. Give me a call. There is no charge.

If you are going to add clover to hay or pasture, don't use a nitrogen fertilizer. It makes the grass too competitive with the clover seedling.

There's a lot of clover needing to go in and should be completed by April 1. Grass pastures need 3 to 4 pounds red clover and 1 to 2 pounds ladino clover broadcast. Graze overseeded areas hard to reduce competition. Hay fields should be used as pasture or harvest the hay as early as possible.

The Lynchburg Feeder Cattle Sale is this Thursday, 1:00 P.M. with 1800 head. We can still take cattle for the April 12 sale, but need to know very quickly. 1200 have been consigned.

I read that the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission suggests a non-chemical control of ticks on dogs, mixing brewer's yeast and garlic into the dog's food each day.

Use 2 tablespoons of the mix for medium to large dogs and less for smaller dogs. They say that there is a cheese flavored yeast available if your dog has highfalutin tastes.

THE APPOMATTOX COUNTY BALL PARK is undergoing second phase of a complete renovation. The work being done by Appomattox Home Improvement Co., Ronnie Guill, owner, includes the erection of a new pressbox with public address system, new concession stand, and new bathroom facilities. The park is used for Dixie Youth Association games. The Dixie Youth state tournament for 17 and 18 year olds will be held at the local park in July. In addition the park is used by church softball teams and other teams, including the Appomattox County High School varsity baseball, ... night games; girls softball, 3 night games; and junior varsity teams.

ASCS Today

By TOM CONRAD

AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION PROGRAM - There will be a county committee meeting in early April to review applications under the Agricultural Conservation Program. The applications being reviewed will be primarily those that are for permanent vegetative cover establishment. These applications were not reviewed at the March meeting because the soil sample results were not back. If a practice is started before approval, it will not be eligible for cost-share, so before starting any practices that you have not been notified about, get in touch with us to see what the status of the application is.

Farmers that have practice approvals are reminded that when they have completed the practice, they need to report completion to the ASCS office and payment will be made shortly after.

FLUE-CURED TOBACCO INFORMATION - Flue producers need to keep the April 15 deadline in mind for temporary leases and initial warehouse designation. You will need to come by the ASCS office for both of these matters and are encouraged to do so before the deadline. Also, you are encouraged to take care of all leasing prior to designating.

MEASUREMENT SERVICE - All farmers in the county are reminded that measurement service is offered for a nominal fee ($14.50 minimum). Under this service all acreages measured are guaranteed for the 1984 crop year. Its a good way to make sure you are in compliance with program regulations as well as to keep production costs to a minimum.

Again this year, Mr. Glen Martin will be doing the premeasuring for the ASCS office. If you are interested in obtaining this service, stop by the ASCS office. Payment must be made at the time you file. After your application has been filed, Mr. Martin will get in touch with you concerning a time to visit your farm.

FEDERAL CROP INSURANCE - Federal crop insurance is available to farmers in the county who may be interested in insuring a crop or crops against loss for inclement weather conditions. There is a list of agents available at the ASCS office.

For those farmers that are not satisfied with their yields under the crop insurance program you now have the opportunity to set up your own crop insurance yields. The basic requirement is that 3 years production evidence is needed. If you do not have production evidence for the prior three years, 1984 would be the year to start your production records. The yields will be established through the ASCS office and you should visit us for additional details.

The following items from crop insurance activities are important to remember:

CROP	Sales Closing	Final Planting
Corn	4-15-84	5-31-84
Grain Sorghum	4-15-84	7-5-84
Soybeans	4-15-84	7-5-84
Tobacco	4-15-84	6-15-84

Read The Times Virginian

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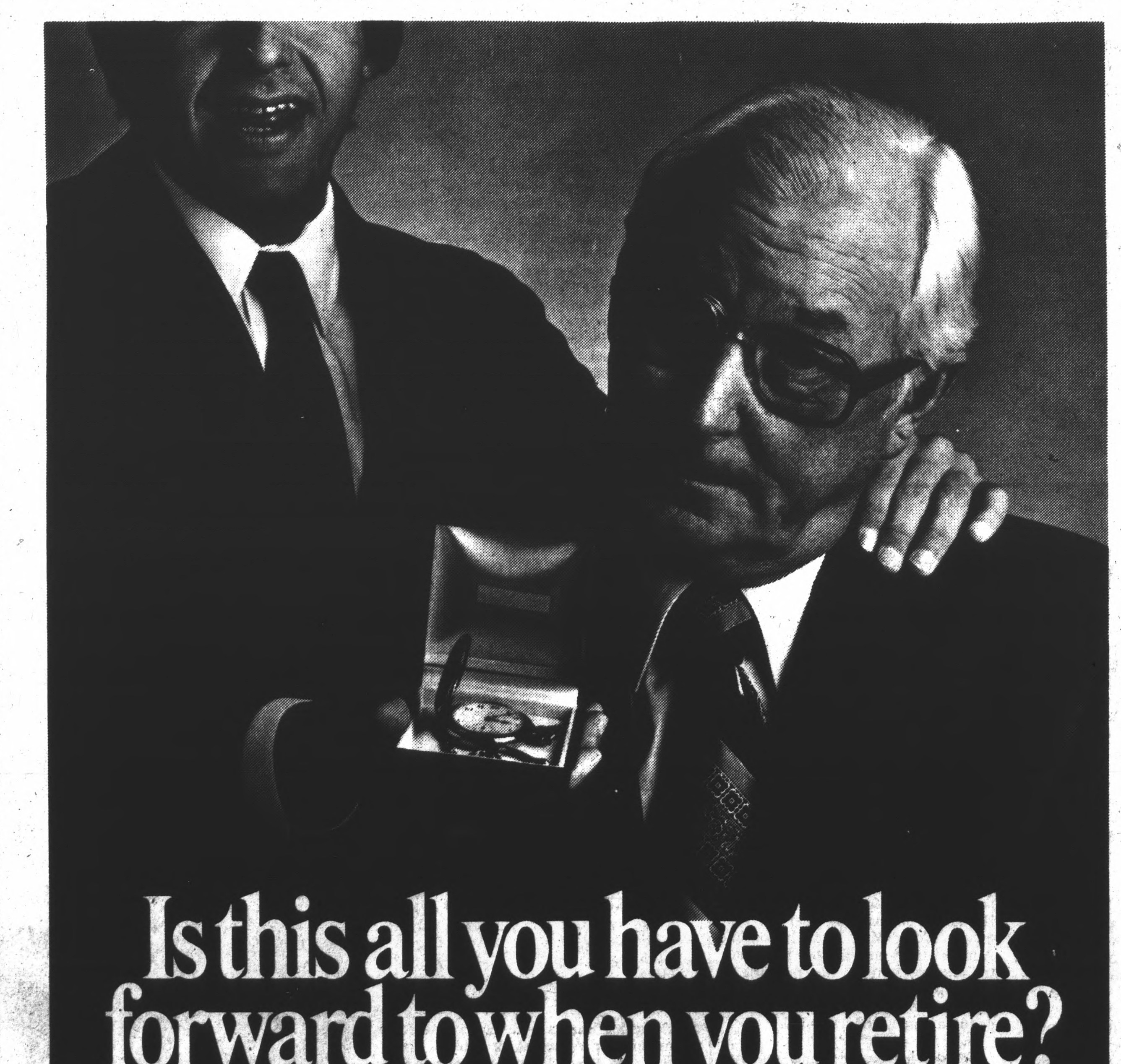

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LIQUID CLEANER MR. CLEAN 28-OZ. BOT. $1.59

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ALL VARS. HAMBURGER HELPER 7-OZ. PKG. 89¢

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ALL VARS. KRAFT (28-OZ. $1.20) BBQ SAUCE....18-OZ. BOT. 79¢
RAGU TRAD. or GARDEN STYLE Spaghetti SAUCE...32-OZ. JAR $1.39
LUNCH MEAT SPAM........12-OZ. CAN $1.29
CORONET Family Pack NAPKINS........PKG. 160'S 79¢
CORONET Facial TISSUES........2 PKGS. 150'S $1.00
4 VARS....BUSH'S BEANS........3 1-LB. CANS $1.00
ARMOUR Corned BEEF........12-OZ. CAN $1.39
RICHFOOD Chocolate SYRUP........24-OZ. SQUEEZE BOT. 89¢
ARMOUR Potted MEAT....4 3-OZ. CANS $1.00

LYSOL PRODUCTS Sale!
REG. or SCENT II SPRAY...12-OZ. CAN $1.99
CLEANSER Pine-Action..15-OZ. BOT. 99¢
TOILET BOWL CLEANSER 24-OZ. SIZE 99¢
NO-WAX FLOOR Cleaner PERK...22-OZ. BOT. $1.99

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SWISS MISS Sugar-Free CHOC. MILK Maker...14 PK. ENVS. $1.69

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